Daylesford Primary School Newsletter
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Website  http://www.daylesps.vic.edu.au
➤ “SEMPER MELIORA” (Always better things)

Be Respectful, Be a Responsible Learner, Be Honest and Trustworthy
Be Caring and Compassionate, Be a Good Citizen

DIARY DATES

March

Monday 9th  Labour Day Holiday
Tues 10th & Wed 11th  Parent/Teacher Interviews (4pm-6pm)
Tues 17th  Cultural Day
Friday 20th  Final day to return Easter Raffle Tickets
Tuesday 24th  • Easter Raffle drawn at Assembly.
              • School Council (AGM & Elections)
Thursday 26th  FREE DRESS DAY
Supporting Good Friday Appeal (Gold Coin Donation)

Friday 27th  • House Cross Country
            • Term finishes at 2.30pm

Preps do not attend School Wednesdays during Term 1.

PUPIL FREE DAY MONDAY 13TH APRIL

TERM Dates 2015
TERM 1 30th Jan - 27th March
TERM 2 14th April - 26th June
TERM 3 13th July - 18th September
TERM 4 5th October -18th December

Office Hours : 8.30am to 4.00pm
Students' School Banking Day : Fridays

Current Focus

Personal Best

Every day we make decisions and choices. To achieve our personal best it is important that those decisions and choices we make are our “best”.

The following attributes will help us to achieve our personal best:
• Think positively
• Work hard
• Challenging ourselves
• Setting goals
• Planning to achieve our goals

We all have a responsibility to be the best that we can be in our personal relationships, academic, sporting, musical and artistic endeavours.

David Garner

PARENT/ CARER VOLUNTEERS

CANTEEN DUTY TERM 1 2015

Wed 11th March  Krystal Phypers
Thurs 12th March
Friday 13th March  Natalie Hardy

EASTER RAFFLE

Our school is conducting our Easter Hamper Raffle and we are asking if each family could please donate one Easter egg/item etc. Raffle tickets are attached to this this Newsletter. Please return before Friday 20th March. Raffle drawn at Assembly Tuesday 24th March.

PARENT-TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Thankyou to the parents/carers who have returned their booking sheets. A reminder that as Monday is a public holiday any not yet returned will need to be at the office by 9.00am Tuesday morning.

Term 1 2015  No. 5 Friday, 6th March, 2015

Current Focus: Personal Best (Responsible Learner)
Our funding for 2015 has been allocated to the school based on our enrolment at Census last Friday. We have a significant shortfall and will be in deficit for 2015. There are a number of contributing factors, but the main one is because we are running one more class than we are entitled. The reason I have an extra class in place this year was to avoid class numbers of 30 children. This has been a good decision as it has already had a positive impact on our teaching and learning. Our class sizes are very good and I am sure you would agree with me that we have had a very good start to 2015.

This brings me to ‘Parent Payments’. Thank you to families who have actioned on the first invoice and paid or established a payment plan. This is very helpful. We need all parents/carers to respond in this way in order to allow the school to provide the services we do.

Unfortunately, due to the funding restraints that are placed on the school, we have had to assess what we are able to provide. We have committed to 13 classes with good reason, but we no longer can afford extra-curriculum activities such as choir and debating. We value what choir and debating brings to the school and how it develops our students but sadly under the current funding formulae we no longer can afford to run these activities. Further discussion with School council and via a parent letter/survey will continue around this topic.

To assist the school to maintain its high standard and outstanding learning culture, we are establishing a ‘Friends of Daylesford Primary School’ (FODPS). The first step is to encourage all members of our school community and beyond to join our distribution list for our school newsletter. A ‘Wish List’ will be placed in our newsletter, encouraging members of our community to support our school. Can you help? Please leave your email address with the front office and please encourage grandparents, community members etc. to join our FODPS by supplying the school with an email address.
Dear Parents

The University of New South Wales is offering an opportunity to participate in the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS).

ICAS:
- is an annual skills development assessment program in key areas of learning for students in Years 2-12; assessments are available in Computer Skills, English, Mathematics, Science, Spelling and Writing
- gathers performance information through a 30–60 minute supervised in-school test
- provides a continuous, independent and comprehensive record of a student’s performance, and maps their development over the full period of primary and secondary schooling
- enables the progress of each student to be mapped in each skill against their previous performance, demonstrating personal improvement no matter the starting point
- uses fellow students’ results as a reference point; results are mapped against all students sitting at the same year level in Australia
- provides an excellent preparation for national testing
- enables students at all levels of ability to participate; ICAS contains questions designed to specifically explore the abilities of students of all standards – this includes those of both lower and higher levels of achievement
- medals are awarded to the top students in each subject in each school year in each state when sufficiently meritorious and the test was sat on the official test date
- entries are administered through the school, so teachers can also access the information

To enrol your child in ICAS, please complete the registration form which has been sent home with this newsletter.

Dates:
- Science 3rd June Yrs 2-6
- Writing 15th June Yrs 3-6
- Spelling 16th June Yrs 3-6
- English 28th July Yrs 2-6
- Maths 11th Aug Yrs 2-6

HOUSE SWIMMING SPORTS

Last Friday the annual swimming sports were held with the weather being perfect and the pool temperature at the start of the day at a comfortable 25 degrees. As the students arrived it was great to see the large number of parents (some before the students had arrived) who were there to watch their children/grandchildren.

As the day continued I paused on many occasions to observe the sea of blue, red, green and yellow surrounding the pool. I also observed all students supporting each other, giving their best and extending themselves in events they had entered. I congratulate all students for their enthusiasm and great sportsmanship throughout the day. At the halfway mark, Corinella had the lead but as the day progressed Wyuna had made their move and eventually came out victors.

The final scores were as follows:
- Corinella- 325 points, Sutton – 330 points, Tipperary-353 points and finally Wyuna – 403 points.

Again congratulations to Wyuna and also to all houses students.

The championship races were held and well done to all finalists. For those who are unfamiliar with the championship race, the six fastest qualifiers (boy and girl) from the 50 metres freestyle races – regardless of age are automatically entered in the race. Congratulations to Jonas Paar and Bella Jack, our 2015 Girl & Boy Swimming Champions.

Finally a great big thankyou to all the staff, house captains and in particular the parents who volunteered their time to make this event a success. Thank you so much.

Andrew kiellerp

Girl & Boy Champions Bella & Jonas Paar

CULTURAL DAY 2015

On Tuesday 17th March, we will again embark on a journey around the world! The students will be rotated around cultural activities in their family groups for the morning. We will start with a whole school assembly as normal.

STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO DRESS IN CULTURAL DRESS from any country. There is no cost for this day. If anyone can assist on the day, please speak to your classroom teacher or one of the specialists.